



# Building a resilient and sustainable animal health workforce through field epidemiology training in Uganda (2019 – 2024)

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## Introduction

- ❑ The livestock sector in Uganda supports 60% of the country's livelihoods but is challenged by a high prevalence of livestock diseases which negatively impact production, trade, and livelihoods in Uganda.
- ❑ Assessments such as JEE, PVS have identified shortcomings such as limited structured and routine in-service training for animal health workers, and an unequal distribution of a highly qualified workforce with the necessary technical skills to address health challenges effectively.
- ❑ The In-Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (ISAVET) was launched to address these gaps.

## Objectives

- ❑ ISAVET aims to establish a sustainable public health system by fostering a highly qualified workforce with technical, scientific, and subject-matter expertise.

## Descriptions of activities

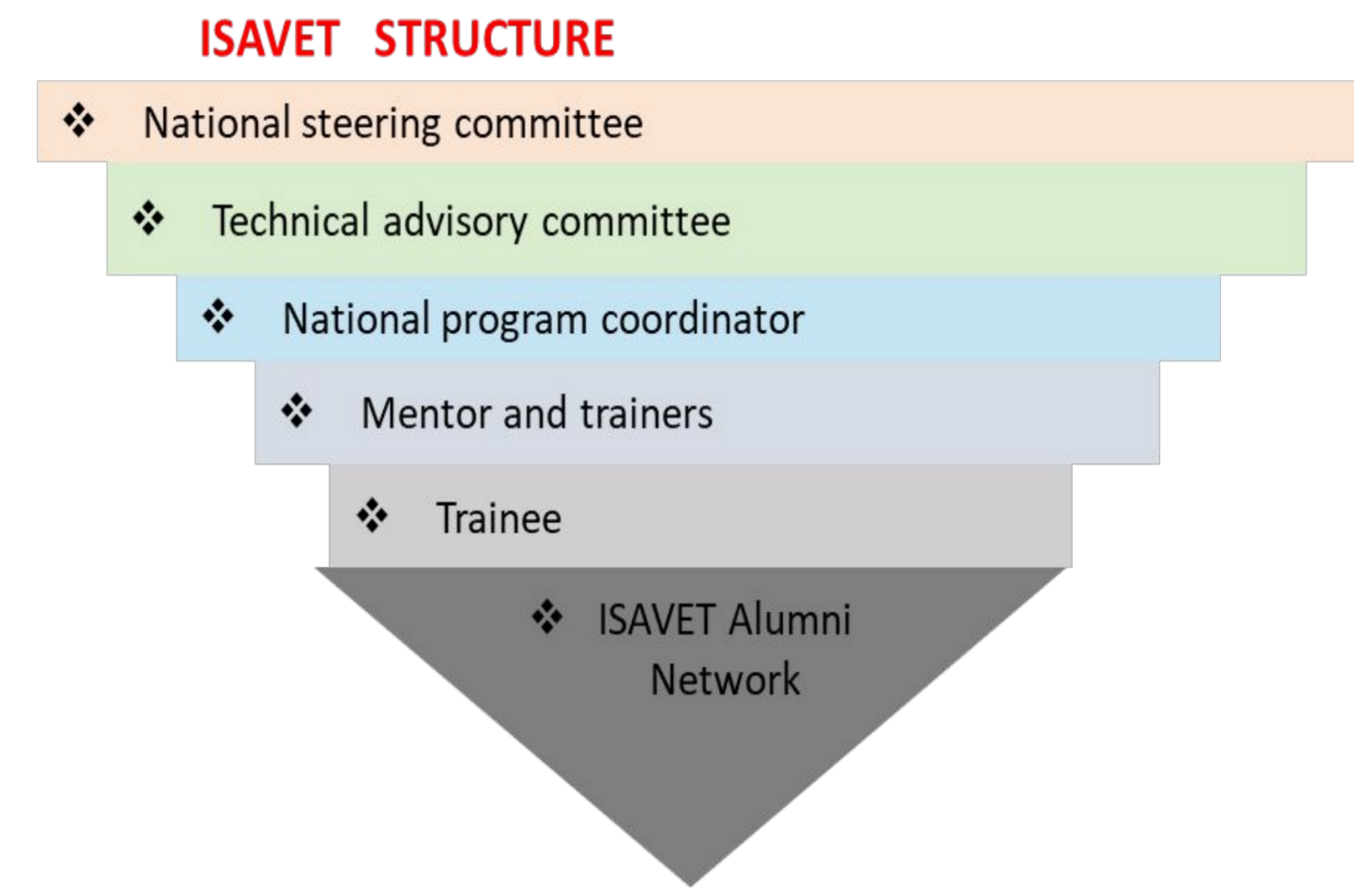
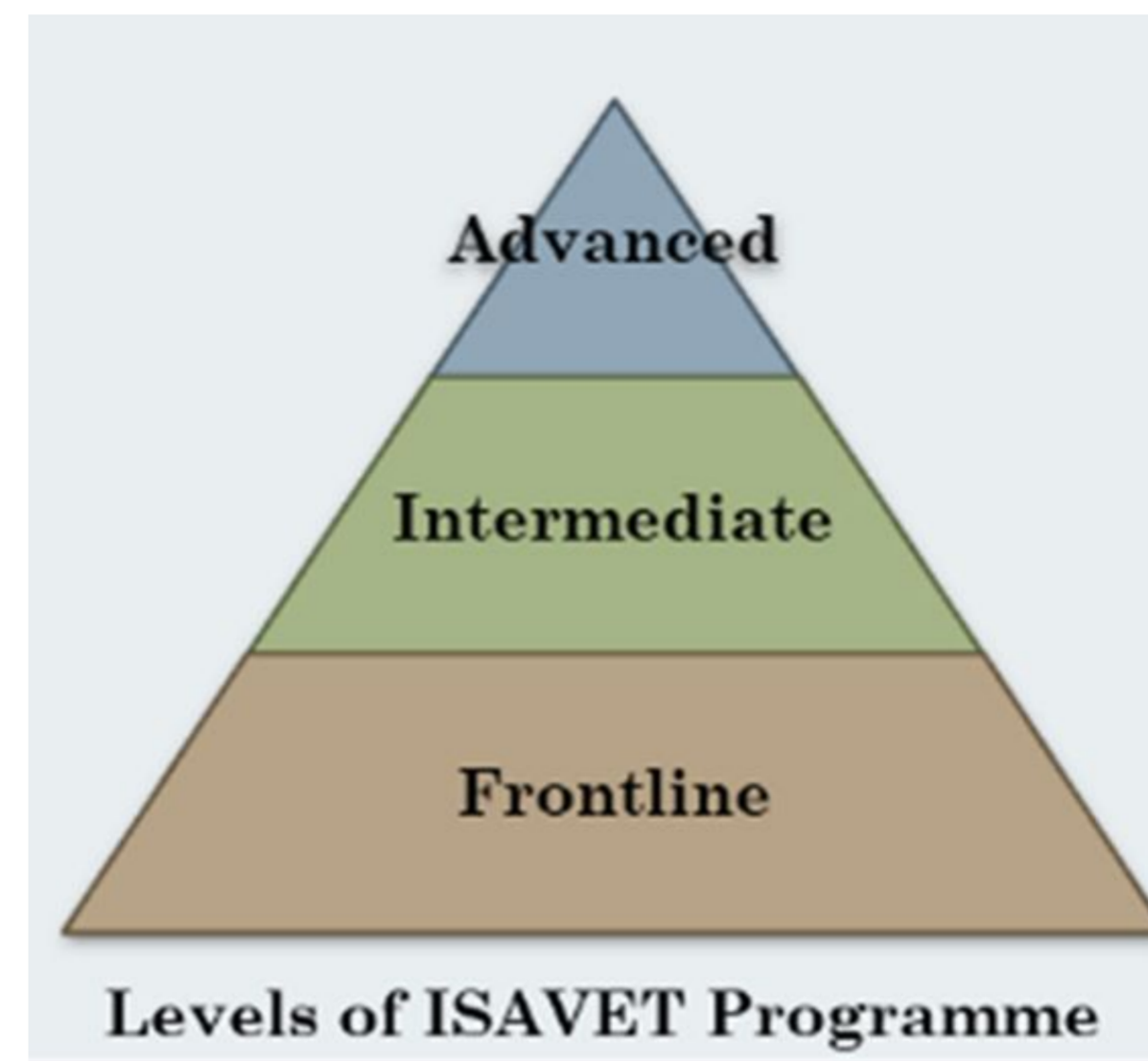
- ❑ ISAVET program is funded by USAID and implemented by FAO in collaboration with MAAIF. The program targets veterinarians, para-veterinarians, laboratory technologists, & wildlife specialists.
- ❑ The program has a standardized four months curriculum
  - Three weeks classroom training and one week field activities
    - ✓ Covers disease surveillance, investigation, and emergency response within one health framework (8 domains comprised of; 14 core competencies & 47 skills)
  - Three months station-based mentored field projects
    - ✓ Weekly surveillance reports, weekly follow-up meetings, field project, and data quality audits.

## Results / Monitoring and evaluation of results

- ❑ Since its inception, ISAVET has trained 147 professionals with representation across Uganda as follows;
  - ❑ **Region:** Central - 51; East - 33; North - 22; West – 41
  - ❑ **Gender:** Female - 27.9%; Male – 72.1
  - ❑ **Cadre:** Veterinarians – 56.5%; VPPs - 43.5%; lab technologists – 9.5%; and Wildlife – 2.7%.
  - ❑ **Sector:** Public – 89.8%; Private - 10.2%
- ❑ 70% of the trainee field projects (2019 – 2024) emphasized building preventive measures for both zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases.
- ❑ Trainees have demonstrated improved abilities in disease detection, response, reporting, and data management.
- ❑ The program has promoted collaboration among veterinarians, public health professionals, wildlife, and environmental scientists.

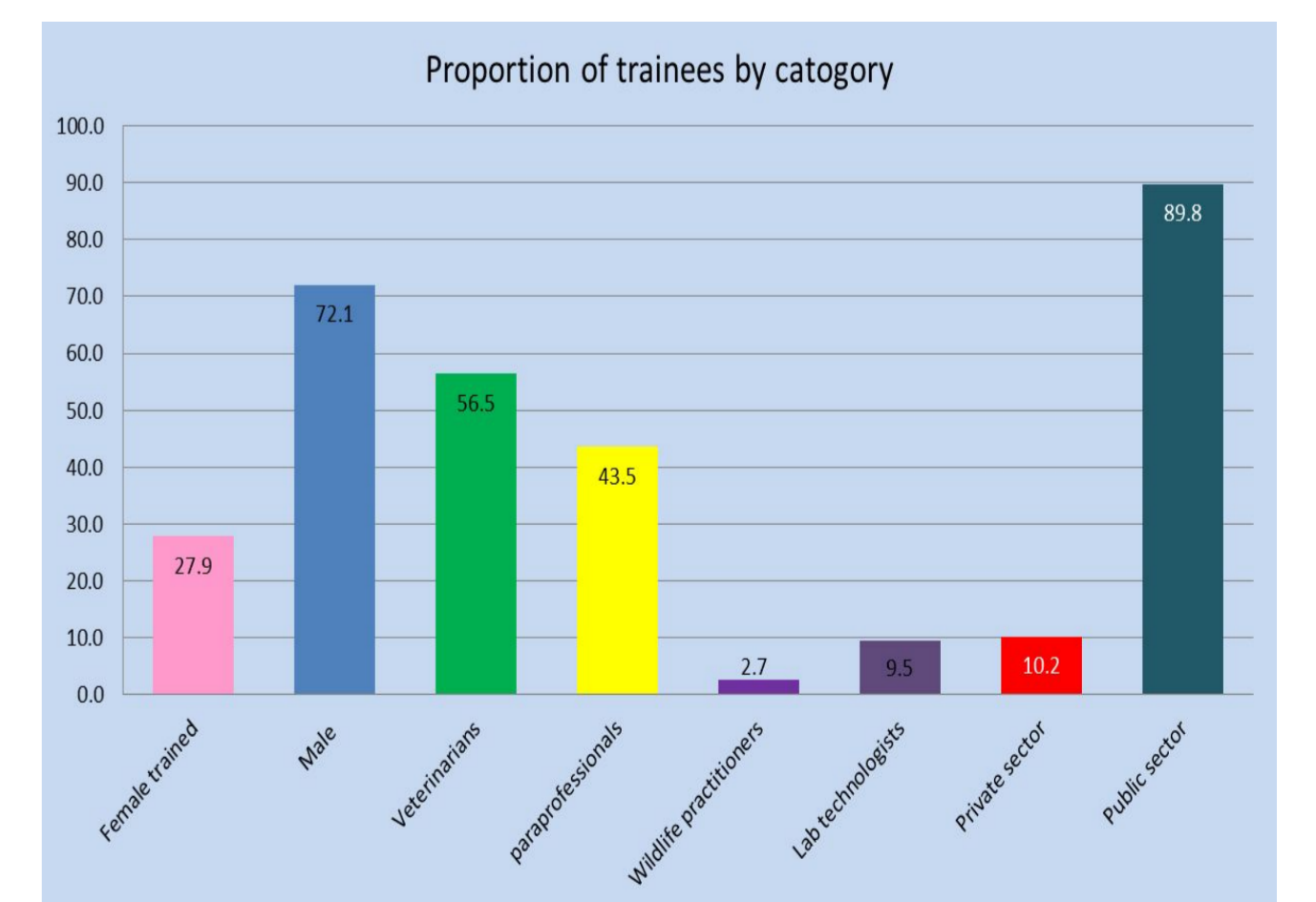
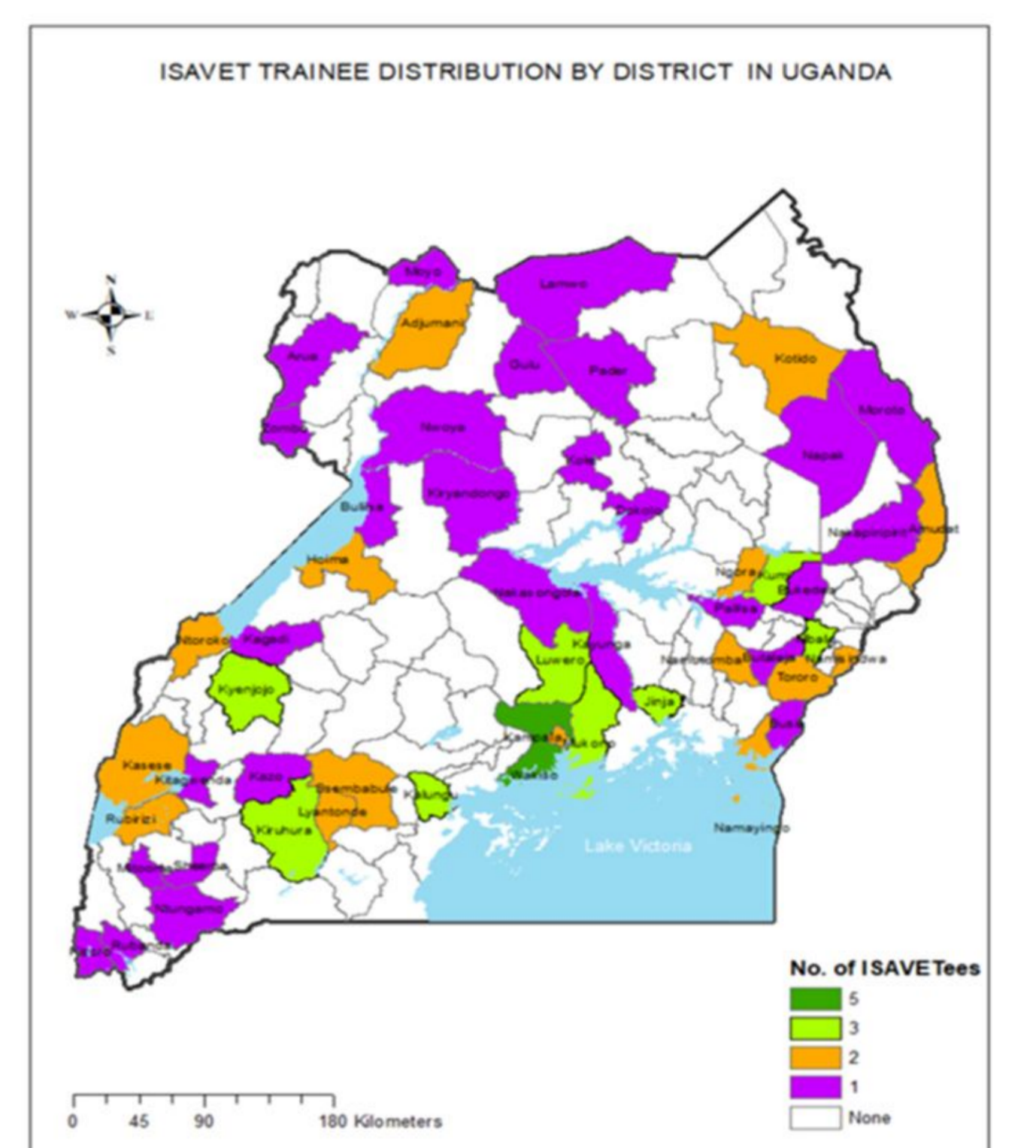
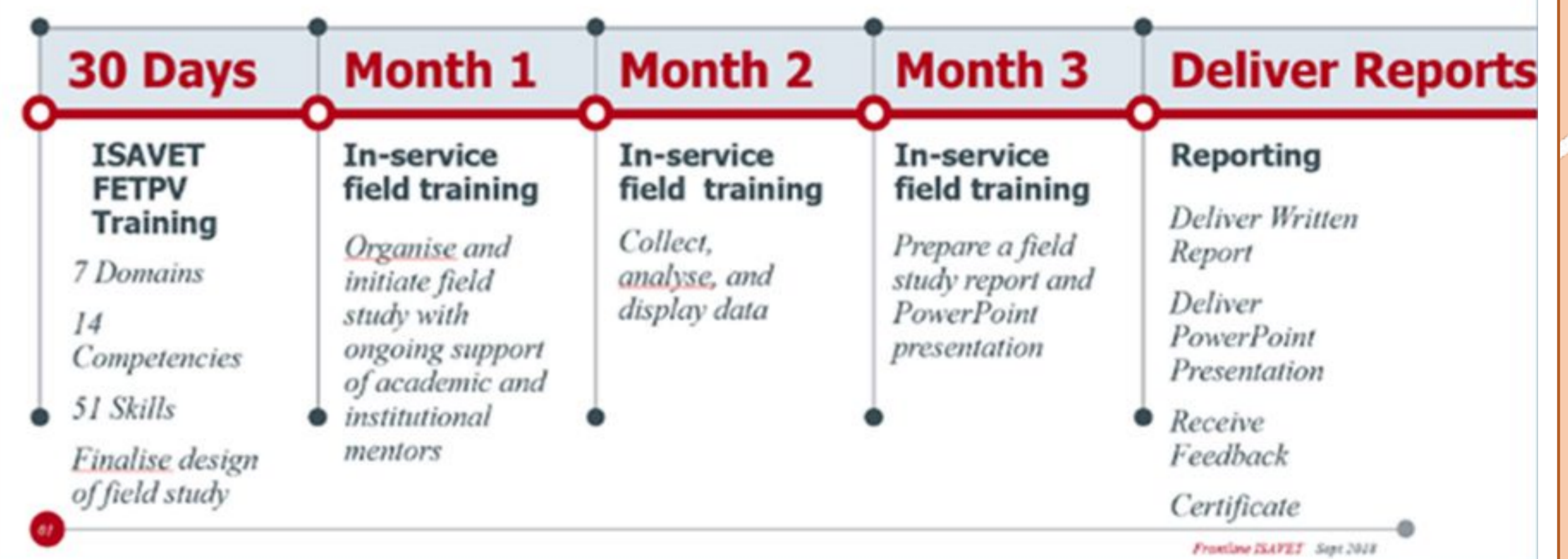
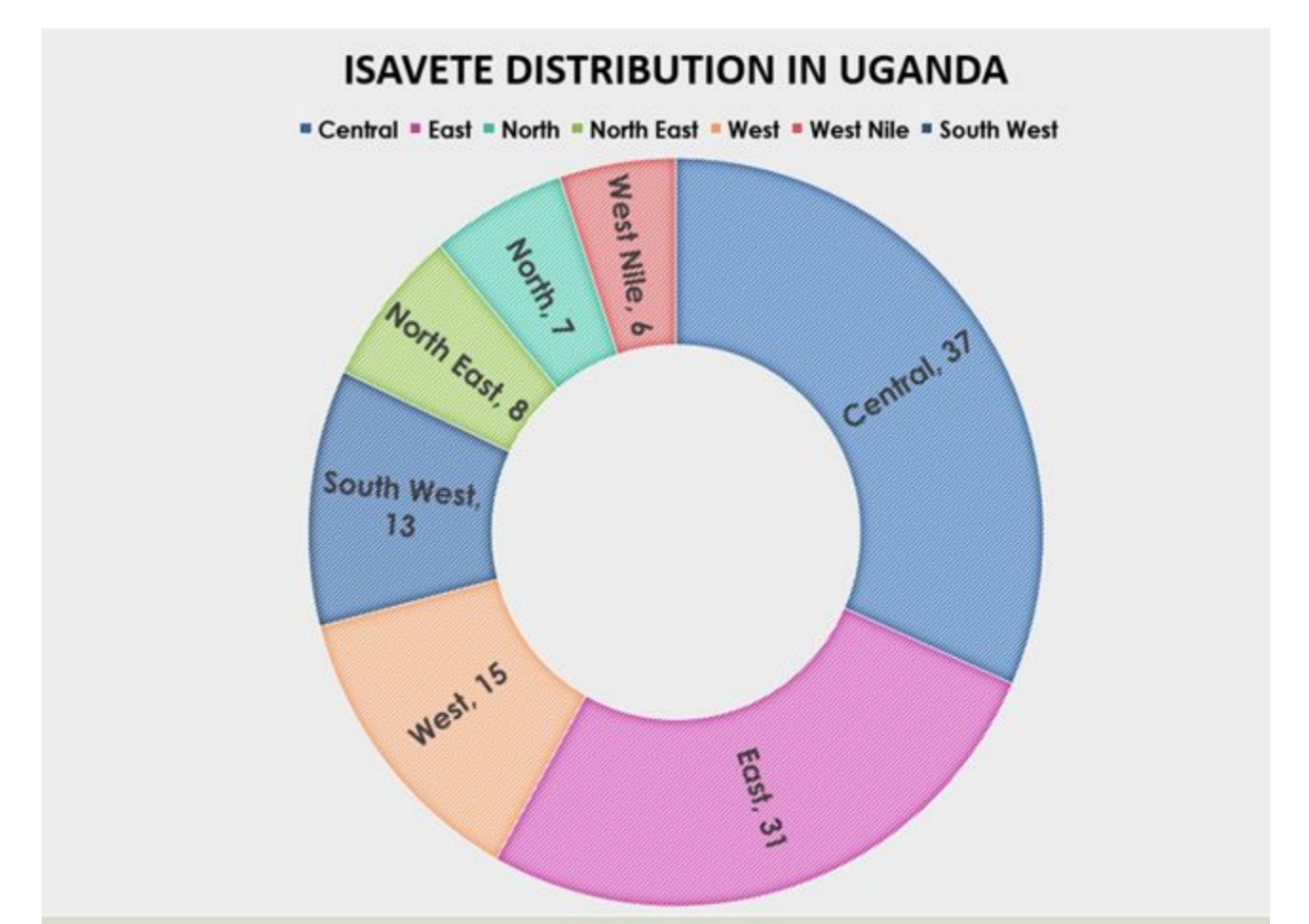
## Conclusions and recommendations

- ❑ ISAVET has demonstrably strengthened Uganda's animal health workforce, improved disease surveillance, response, and collaboration across sectors.
- ❑ Continued investment and collaboration with stakeholders using a One Health approach is crucial to safeguard the public health and the country's economy.



## Frontline ISAVET Timeline

75% applied : 25% classroom training

World Organisation for Animal Health

Organisation mondiale de la santé animale

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal



MAAIF  
 Ministry of Agriculture  
 Animal Industry and Fisheries

